



April 25, 2003 – Special Meeting with John Betker, USCOE NEPA/404 Merger Meeting Minutes

IL 336 – Peoria to Macomb

Peoria, Fulton, McDonough Counties
P-94-025-00

Concurrence Point: Purpose and Need

A list of those in attendance is attached.

The purpose of this meeting and the April 28, 2003 meeting with the other members of the NEPA/404 Merger Team was to obtain concurrence on the Purpose and Need for the IL 336, Peoria to Macomb project.

At the April 25, 2003 meeting, Ms. Paula Green (IDOT) described the study area and the Purpose and Need for the project. A handout was distributed, which included the information presented by Ms. Green. Following the presentation, there was a brief question and answer period. The discussion is summarized below:

Mr. John Betker (USCOE) asked if the political element in this area supportive of the project. Ms. Green explained that there appears to be political support for this project. The IL 336 coalition is very supportive and active in lobbying for this project.

Mr. Betker asked if there have been any cost estimates that are available. Ms. Green replied that it is too early in the process to have any actual cost estimates. Any estimates generated would be very general and typical of other projects of this magnitude.

Mr. Betker asked what the traffic counts were in the study area. Mr. Mike McLuckie (IDOT) answered that the concentration of traffic is located around Peoria and between Peoria, Canton and Farmington. Once you get past Canton and Farmington, the traffic counts drop substantially.

Mr. Betker questioned if corridors north of Farmington had been investigated. Mr. McLuckie explained the purpose of the project is to stay as close to the population centers as practical, thus benefiting the most people. The further the road moves away from Canton, the less benefit there is to the major population center in the center of the study area.

Mr. Betker asked what Canton hoped to get from this project. More businesses? Pass-through consumers? Ms. Green answered the City of Canton has stressed for years that they don't have adequate transportation facilities in their area, which would enable them to retain businesses. Canton, as well as all of Fulton County, was severally impacted by the closing of International Harvester in the 1980's, and also by the closing of numerous surface and subsurface coal mines in the 80's and 90's.

Mr. Betker asked when would a corridor be selected. Ms. Green replied IDOT plans on eliminating corridors following the public meetings and then begin selecting a corridor towards the end of 2004.

Mr. John Betker commented that big, wide corridors are preferred since they allow for movement of alignment alternatives when the study gets to that stage in the process.

Point of Concurrence: Ms. Green asked if Mr. Betker would grant concurrence on the project's Purpose and Need. Mr. Betker concurred with the basic concepts of the current Purpose and Need and understands that it may be an evolving one as the process continues.

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A presentation describing the study area and the project's Purpose and Need was made by Ms. Mary Hagerty, the Environmental Lead for URS (the consultant working with IDOT on the projec).

Following the presentation, there was a brief question and answer period. The discussion is summarized below:

Ms. Heidi Woeber (USFWS) asked about the types of wetlands around the strip-mined areas. Ms. Paula Green (IDOT) responded that most of the wetlands shown seem to be open water with some wetland vegetation around the perimeter. All of the lakes and wetlands are man-made.

Ms. Green noted that the Purpose and Need has been written for the corridor phase of the project, and may be revised as the process moves along.

Ms. Green clarified that freeway and expressway options are under consideration at this point and time.

A question was asked regarding which routes were currently being used to get from Macomb to Canton. Mr. Mike McLuckie (IDOT) responded that people are using a variety of state and local routes to get between the cities depending on their familiarity with the area.

Point of Concurrence: After the question and answer period, Ms. Kathy Ames (IDOT) stated that the Department would like to get concurrence on the Purpose and Need. Although the Purpose and Need may be refined later, it is requested that concurrence is received in this part of the project. Mr. J. D. Stevenson (FHWA) asked if Mr. John Betker of the Corps of Engineers had granted concurrence on the Purpose and Need at a separate meeting held on April 25th. Ms. Green replied that concurrence was received from the Corps of Engineers. A copy of the minutes from the April meeting with the Corps of Engineers is attached.

Concurrence on the Purpose and Need for the IL 336, Peoria to Macomb, study was granted.

Attendance Sheet April 25, 2003

Special Meeting with John Betker, USCOE NEPA/404 Merger Meeting Minutes IL 336

Peoria, Fulton and McDonough Counties P-94-025-00

Name	Representing
John Betker	US Corps of Engineers
Charles Perino	IDOT, Bureau of Design & Environment
John Anderson	IDOT, District 4
Maureen Addis	IDOT, District 4
Mike McLuckie	IDOT, District 4
Paula Green	IDOT, District 4
Greg Larson	IDOT, District 4

Attendance Sheet <u>April 28, 2003</u> NEPA/404 Merger Meeting Minutes IL 336 Peoria, Fulton and McDonough Counties P-94-025-00

Name	Representing
Terry Savko	IL. Department of Agriculture
Heidi Woeber	U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Arlene Kocher	Federal Highway Administration
Jan Piland	Federal Highway Administration
JD Stevenson	Federal Highway Administration
Newton Ellens	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Steve Hamer	IL Department of Natural Resources
Larry Piche	IDOT, Bureau of Design & Environment
Kathy Ames	IDOT, Bureau of Design & Environment
Jean Fitts	IDOT, Bureau of Design & Environment
Barbara Stevens	IDOT, Bureau of Design & Environment
Charles Perino	IDOT, Bureau of Design & Environment
John Sanford	IDOT, Bureau of Design & Environment
Joe Crowe	IDOT, District 4
Eric Therkildsen	IDOT, District 4
John Anderson	IDOT, District 4
Maureen Addis	IDOT, District 4
Mike McLuckie	IDOT, District 4
Paula Green	IDOT, District 4
Greg Larson	IDOT, District 4
Bob Andrews	URS
Mary Hagerty	URS